

# EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCIL MINUTES

**Committee:** Council **Date:** 29 April 2021

**Place:** Virtual Meeting on Zoom **Time:** 7.00 - 8.30 pm

**Members Present:** Councillors H Kane (Chairman), J Share-Bernia, N Avey, R Baldwin, R Bassett, A Beales, N Bedford, P Bolton, H Brady, R Brookes, L Burrows, D Dorrell, I Hadley, S Heap, S Heather, R Jennings, J Jennings, S Jones, S Kane, H Kauffman, P Keska, Y Knight, J Lea, J Leppert, A Lion, C McCredie, R Morgan, S Murray, S Neville, M Owen, A Patel, J Philip, C P Pond, C C Pond, S Rackham, C Roberts, D Roberts, B Rolfe, B Sandler, M Sartin, P Stalker, D Stocker, D Sunger, C Whitbread, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse and D Wixley

**Apologies:** Councillors L Mead, A Mitchell, D Plummer and B Vaz

**Officers Present:** G Blakemore (Chief Executive), N Dawe (Chief Operating Officer), A Small (Strategic Director Corporate and 151 Officer), N Boateng (Service Manager (Legal) & Monitoring Officer), G Woodhall (Team Manager - Democratic & Electoral Services), J Leither (Democratic Services Officer), R Perrin (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer) and N Cole (Corporate Communications Officer)

## 75. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Democratic and Electoral Services Team Manager reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

## 76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

## 77. MINUTES

### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 February 2021 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following:

Councillor L Burrows advised that the last sentence of his question was missing under minute item 66 Questions by Members without notice, (h) which has been added to the minutes of 25 February 2021:

'How can residents trust the Epping Liberal Democrats.'

Councillor S Heap advised that under item 68 The Pay Policy Statement that he did ask questions regarding the senior salary payments. He was advised by the Democratic Services Officer that the minutes of the meeting were not verbatim and under this section so long as the decision was correctly

recorded the discussion by Members was not mandatory to record in the minutes.

Councillor J M Whitehouse stated that as Councillor L Burrows asked for his minute item to be corrected then he would also like to have his comments recorded in the minutes for clarity of Councillor Burrows information that was incorrect and misleading.

## 78. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chairman's Announcements

(a) The Chairman reminded Members to submit their Related Party Declarations for the year 2020/21.

Councillor C C Pond stated that he and Councillor C P Pond had not received the related party declarations to complete.

The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager advised that he would check with accountancy and get back to the Councillors.

(b) Members as you are aware this would be the last Full Council meeting of the Civic Year and a time for us to reflect on the last 12 months.

There have been many changes for all of us over the year and I would like to acknowledge the strength and fortitude that many of us in our community have had to endure with when faced with Covid 19.

Many have escaped the virus but had restricted freedoms, many have suffered from Covid 19 and still suffer the consequences and many too have lost loved ones and their hearts are still broken. Indeed, not due to the pandemic, we have all suffered a loss back in July when our dear friend and valued council member Syd Stavrou passed away. I still miss her to this day.

But through these unprecedented times, we have all learnt valuable lessons, to appreciate those around us that we care and love and to value our community.

As a Council we have had to change to ensure our staff remained safe and that our residents and businesses were still supported and you too Members have had to adapt in so many ways. We have had to learn new skills, especially in how our council meetings were administered. We have all managed to join a meeting in zoom, learnt how to mute our microphones and to raise a hand, simple tasks now that almost seemed impossible 12 months ago.

Members, I would like to thank you all for overcoming the problems we all faced and for accepting my changes and adjustments to how a council meeting was conducted. I am sure you will agree with me that despite the adversity we have faced we have all risen to the occasion and ensured that council business was conducted in a fair and professional manner.

Looking back over the past year I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning the members of staff who work for Epping Forest District Council. They too have had to change, by changing how they work and where they work.

Change was not always welcome, but I know that we have a loyal and committed workforce who always go that extra mile to uphold the behaviours and values of the

Council and for that I would like to say a personal thank you to each and every one of them.

The Chairman acknowledged some of the Council's staff who had taken this opportunity to develop their own careers and had moved onto pastures new. Julie Chandler and Peter Charman, who helped me so much during the Leisure Contract, with the enhancements of the Loughton, Epping and Ongar Leisure centres and especially with the completion of the new Waltham Abbey Leisure centre.

She also extended her thanks to Kim Durrani and advised that she had met Kim before she had become a councillor through his work with the local community organisations (town partnership) in Waltham Abbey.

Kim started at EFDC in February 2002 as a Land Drainage Engineer, in 2008 he became Assistant Director Technical Services and later the Service Director for Contracts and Technical Services. He was responsible for all the major outsourced contracted services of the Council, like waste management, leisure management services and car parking as well as some of the more complex technical functions such as contaminated land, flood risk management, and pollution control.

Kim's aim like Julie's and Peter's was always to embed the Council's values and behaviours in the delivery of these front-line services and to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and better outcomes for our residents.

We will miss his measured views and logical thinking, but I am sure I speak for you all in wishing him every success in his new appointment.

Members as I said earlier this would be the last Full Council of the Civic Year and I cannot let this time pass without acknowledging some of our own Members who will not be standing again at the next election.

Public life was never easy, and it certainly can put a strain on your personal life, so I am sure you will join with me and thank those members who have chosen to stand down and will not be joining us again after May.

Members we will all have an opportunity at the Annual Council Meeting in May to acknowledge the service of these councillors but for now I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to:

Debra Roberts, Amy Beales, Gavin Chambers, John Knapman, Brian Sandler and Maggie McEwen for their service and commitment to the Epping Forest District.

As Chairman I have had a very unusual year; I cannot sit here and recall the events I have attended or look back on an elaborate Civic Awards' ceremony, but I can say it has been a rewarding year. I really have learnt so much and there are a few people I would like to personally thank.

First of all, to you Members for putting your trust in me and electing me Chairman of Council and to the staff from Democratic Services, Gary Woodhall, Jackie Leither and Adrian Hendry, who have guided me through our Council meetings. To Corporate Communications headed by Tom Carne, who has always ensured I am informed and up to date on current issues especially their guidance over the past few weeks since HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh passed away. Our website at the time was a fitting tribute to a very remarkable man. A person I will be forever grateful to was Pat Seager, her experience, her patience and her professional competence has made a great difference to me this year.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband Sam and my family for their total support throughout this very difficult year.

#### **79. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

The Council noted that there were no public questions under notice that had been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

#### **80. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER NOTICE**

The Council noted that there were no questions by members under notice that had been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

#### **81. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER & MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

The Council received written reports from Portfolio Holders. The Chairman invited the Leader of Council to provide an oral report and the opportunity for other members of the Cabinet to give updates on matters concerning their relevant portfolios.

##### **(a) Leader of Council**

Councillor C Whitbread stated that since the last Full Council meeting on the 25 February 2021, it had been a busy time for the Council, high streets, businesses and the Country as a whole, as the timetable to bring the Country out of lockdown had begun. The Council have been actively engaged in helping businesses back to life on the high streets. Throughout Epping High Street there were notices on the lampposts to encourage people to shop local and it was encouraging to see the car parks getting busier and also the hospitality venue gardens being open and I am sure as the Country progresses to the next stage of the lockdown programme on the 17 May, with inside dining getting ready to open again.

It would be interesting to see what happens after 17 May, when Council meetings will become physical again and meeting in the Civic Offices. I believe going forward this will be a positive outcome for the Council and our residents.

Over the last year we have all been conditioned to work differently, at times this has been challenging and again we will seek different challenges once we start going back to physical meetings with some meetings still being held virtually. I believe for a time there will be a mixture of virtual and physical meetings and some meetings will stay as virtual for the foreseeable future.

The refurbished Civic Offices had been completed and I have been liaising with the Essex Library Services regarding them bringing the library service into the Civic Offices. The meeting was held with the Cabinet Member for Libraries and the library staff and he reported that it was a very positive meeting and progress was being made and he looked forward to reporting on further progress.

He also advised that he had met with Councillor Murray and Councillor Pond to discuss the Debden Library and will be meeting with the Cabinet Member for Libraries again to discuss Debden but with the forthcoming elections the Cabinet Member may change. It was important that this Council can influence and can talk to the correct people to move the library decisions forward.

After this very difficult year the Council was about taking Epping Forest forward in the next year and the five sites in Epping would support and fund the new Epping Sports Centre.

(b) The Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder

Councillor A Patel advised that at the Cabinet meeting on the 20 April 2021 that he gave members a detailed verbal update on the Council's assets at Centric Parade, Loughton, 202-226 High Road, Loughton and The Broadway, Debden.

To summarise Centric Parade had been hit by the effects of the Covid lockdown, four shops had become vacant and two had gone into a company voluntary arrangement (CVA). I am pleased to be able to advise that three of the vacant shops have now been let and the two shops that had gone into a CVA we have managed to let one to a National Health and Wellbeing operator at market rent and we are finalising terms with a National Discount retailer for the other unit. With regard to The Broadway, Debden, all shops remain let with the exception of one, but this has now been let and is in the hands of solicitors to finalise. Of the seven commercial units located at the Landmark building six are now let and the remaining unit was now under offer.

He advised that this was a good news story and was sure that Member's would agree and he stated that he would like to praise the efforts of the Council's Estates Team for being able to find new tenants during this difficult time whilst being in lockdown.

(c) The Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillor J Philip advised that he would like to give an update to the Covid Economic Development Programme that was referenced in his report and stated that the Council had now appointed a Town Centre Project manager who had already started work and one of the first things he would look at was making sure the reports for the remaining town centres were available to be discussed and the first Cabinet meeting to be held in the new municipal year. He would then start to work on the larger villages which would also benefit from the Economic Development Programme starting with Theydon Bois, North Weald and Chigwell and find ways to make those places more attractive for our residents to go shopping in as the economy opens up.

On the finance side of the portfolio he stated that he would like to reassure member's that the budget the Council produced and approved in February 2021 was accurate and that despite reports to the contrary the Council have not reduced the rent that they are expecting to receive for the second floor of the Civic Offices, we expect to get the same amount as was set but with Covid and not reopening the Civic Offices until after the start of the financial year, it would be impossible to let and get tenants at the start of the financial year and the date has been moved to start in six months. So to put it into context it was not a failure to let there was a significant amount of interest in the second floor and offers had been received.

## 82. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Chairman thanked Members for giving notification of their intention to ask a question without notice.

She advised Members that any interpretation of breaking the purdah rules, the Monitoring Officer would intervene and that she would not permit the question to be answered. The purdah rules were designed to ensure that Council resources would not be used to promote individual candidates. Any webcast meeting was a council resource and therefore cannot be used for self-promotion.

(a) Conservative Party Literature

Councillor S Heap stated that his question was to the Leader of Council and referred to a leaflet that was published and distributed by the Conservative Party about the Green Party which contained some inaccuracies that need to be addressed. Firstly, the Green Party want to abandon or abolish home ownership, which was not true and secondly that the Green Party wanted to introduce Clean Air Zones CAZ all over the country, maybe that was a good idea but that would only happen if there was a cheap and viable alternative to it. It should be pointed out that the CAZ which was proposed for Epping Forest was only proposed by the Conservatives and only voted in favour of by the Conservatives. Lastly, it was also stated in the leaflet that the Green Party wished to increase taxes and redistribute wealth. Therefore could the Leader explain how did any fiscal policy work at District, County or National level, if it's not redistribution of wealth and how could the Leader as a member of the County Council vote to increase the ECC proportion of Council Tax and redistribute that wealth.

Councillor C Whitbread stated that Councillor Heap gave a very long diatribe which was a political broadcast before he got to any form of question and the information came from the 1919 Green Party election manifesto and if Councillor Heap had checked it then he would know where his party stood.

Council Tax in Epping Forest was the lowest in Essex and this Council protected frontline services. There was nothing wrong with increasing Council Tax for high quality services if you did it in the correct way and that has always been the way of Epping Forest and was also the way of Essex County Council. Therefore, I do not see the point of your question as it was not a question for this Council on wealth redistribution, this Council was about providing the best quality frontline services for its residents at the best possible value.

He stated that there was had never been a vote on the CAZ because the CAZ had not even been designed or consulted on and what this Conservative group had said was that we will do everything we can to mitigate against the need for a CAZ. I would like to point out that it was the Liberal Democrats and the one Green party member at Essex County Council who voted to bring in road charges across hot spots in Essex, Epping Forest being one of those hot spots. Therefore, it was the policy of the Liberal Democrats and the Green party to implement CAZ's throughout Essex and not that of the Conservative party.

(b) Council Land Holdings

Councillor S Murray asked if the relevant Portfolio Holder could confirm that the audited accounts, when they were audited, were likely to show a substantial decrease in the valuation of the Loughton High Road units, 202-226, which included Centric Parade compared to the purchase price. Also could Members be updated with the plans that are being thought about to safeguard Jessel Green from future large-scale vehicular incursions. He stated that on the 15 April he did email the relevant Portfolio Holders asking what steps they intended to take to stop vehicular incursions on Jessel Green

Cllr J Philip advised that he did not have the audited accounts from the previous financial year which was explained in great detail at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting in March 2021 and was also explained in my report. An error had also been found in the previous year which the Auditors had not picked up and I am hopeful that these accounts will be ready early on in the new municipal year. He stated that he believed that there would be a dip in the valuation of Centric Parade

not a significant or huge dip but given that the valuation was carried out and the beginning of the pandemic last year which caused a dip on all valuations at that point because it was not known what was actually going to happen over the last year. Therefore, I do expect a reduction in the valuation but would expect it to be recovered in the following years' accounts.

Councillor H Whitbread advised that post-election she would arrange for a briefing for all members from the Safety and Community Team on Gypsy and Traveller incursions and then have another meeting with the ward members to discuss solutions and ways of protecting Jessel Green moving forwards.

(c) Increase in litter across the district

Councillor S Rackham advised her question was to the Environmental and Technical Services Portfolio Holder and stated that the Pandemic had caused an increase in litter across the district, from town centres and into rural villages and asked the Portfolio Holder what action had been taken so far and what action would be taken going forward to address this issue.

Councillor N Avey stated that litter was a pressing issue and he had hoped to put a motion before Member's on this subject but was precluded by election rules. He assured Members that there had been a lot of work going on to address this issue and that he would share more details with Members after the election. In the meantime he stated that great efforts were being made to address the problem of littering on the streets in the district and also in the rural areas.

(d) Clean Air Zones

Councillor J M Whitehouse advised that Member's had been inadvertently misled earlier regarding Clean Air Zones. The national guidance stated that Clean Air Zones fell into two categories, non-charging Clean Air Zones and charging Clean Air Zones there was a sentence in the guidelines which said 'Clean Air Zone proposals are not required to include a charging zone' but it was a charging zone which the air pollution mitigation strategy that the Cabinet voted for at the draft stage and the Council adopted. It could have been written into that strategy that they wanted to avoid or mitigate or have a different approach if they wanted to, but they didn't, they chose to make the Clean Air Zone a central part of that strategy.

Councillor C Whitbread advised that he did not want to get into a debate on Clean Air Zones but felt it was important to come back as the facts that were just stated were wrong. This Council had not designed the Clean Air Zone and have not debated the details of the Clean Air Zone and until it has been designed and then been consulted on there was no charging regime and therefore there was no Clean Air Zone. The Council had to look at the mitigation to make sure this district did not need a Clean Air Zone. There had been no vote on charging, no vote on the design of a Clean Air Zone

Strategy and local people were being misled.

(e) Town Centre Sites in Epping

Councillor J M Whitehouse advised that his question was to the Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder as a Qualis representative. With regard to the three planning applications for the essential town centre sites in Epping that have been submitted, a lot of residents took part in consultation last autumn despite the constraints of the pandemic restrictions and could you therefore summarise what changes had been made to the planning applications as a result of that consultation.

Councillor A Patel advised that as these were live active planning applications and he felt that he should not comment on them at this stage. He added that the changes were visible on the submitted plans.

(f) Local Plan

Councillor C C Pond advised his question was to the Planning and Sustainability Portfolio Holder and asked him what date it was proposed to issue the main modifications to the Local Plan for public consultation.

Councillor Bedford advised that he was not aware of the actual date but knew it was at the end of May and as soon as he knew the date he would inform Councillor C C Pond.

(g) Anti-Social Behaviour – North Weald

Councillor P Bolton advised his question was to the Housing and Community Services Portfolio Holder and stated that some residents in North Weald were being plagued by quad bikes and motorbikes who were accessing the Rayley Lane Golf Range site and asked what the Council were doing to support the residents who were suffering from this anti-social behaviour.

Councillor H Whitbread advised that she was made aware of this issue a number of months ago in her surgery on Thornwood. This had been a big issue for residents and last week Councillor C Whitbread, Council Officers, Essex Police and representatives of the Parish Council went to visit where the issue was. Four primary actions have been taken at this stage and further actions are still being looked into. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the land owner by the Leader of Council regarding unauthorised access to allow the use of quad and scramble bikes and that the access route to the side of the cemetery gate would be fitted with a bike inhibitor restricting access as approved equipment specified by Essex County Council. It was also agreed that a mobile CCTV camera would be mounted outside of the cemetery to monitor access after the inhibitor had been installed and PC Andy Cook would continue to patrol and monitor the situation.

(h) Demand Responsive Transport Trial

Councillor J H Whitehouse advised her question was to the Environmental and Technical Services Portfolio Holder regarding the Demand Responsive Transport Trial that was in his report and commented that it was good news that the trial service had been extended until April 2022. Could the Portfolio Holder comment on the plans for the next twelve months as she would like to make an appeal that you would consider in extending the service to Waltham Abbey and the ulcer clinic that takes place in Waltham Abbey. I would like to make Members aware that people who have leg ulcers need to get to the clinic in Waltham Abbey every week to have their ulcers dressed. An elderly resident from Theydon Bois had advised that he has to spend £27.00 every week to get to the clinic and home by taxi and it was becoming a financial strain. It had further been pointed out that there was no phone number to access the Community Transport, not all elderly people who need to access these services have computers and therefore a phone number should always be provided.

Councillor N Avey stated that it wasn't appropriate for him to go into too much detail as it was written in my report, however, I do take your point about having access to a telephone number and will speak to Officers. I have taken on board your comments

about the resident needing the get from Theydon Bois to the clinic in Waltham Abbey and will see what we can do about that in our plans for this service.

Councillor J Philip advised that at his request, for another Theydon Bois resident, he had been given the telephone number for the Epping Forest Community Transport Service who ran the Demand Responsive Service of 01992 579556.

(i) Reopening of the Districts High Streets

Councillor D Dorrell advised that his question was to the Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and asked if he could report back on the reopening of our high streets and shopping parades across the district and outline what action the Council has taken to assist as the measures start to lift.

Councillor J Philip advised that the reopening had been very successful, the Leader had already mentioned that the Council had put in place free car parking for a week which was well received by the residents and shop owners, this resulted in a reasonable footfall in the high streets in that first week. The Council provided free 'please wear a mask' posters for the shops and businesses, some of the larger chains used the Council's posters as they stood out and were more effective than their own. Additional restriction grants and reopening grants were being distributed to help the businesses in the district details of these can be found on the Councils website. A local florist, who also gave an interview on Radio Essex, had thanked the Council for all of their help and support in getting her business back on track. The Council will continue to work with residents and business to help and support them back into the high streets and gave credit to residents, businesses and Council Officers in making this happen smoothly.

(j) Anti-Social Behaviour in Buckhurst Hill

Councillor S Neville advised that his question was to the Housing and Communities Portfolio Holder and stated that in the Portfolio Holders report on page 78, Anti-Social Behaviour it referred to a rough sleeper in Buckhurst Hill and a case being prepared against him for a Criminal Behaviour Order as he had breached a Community Protection Notice and asked if there were any updates or if it was still ongoing, was there a timeline.

Councillor H Whitbread stated that this has been an ongoing key issue in Buckhurst Hill and advised that she would like to have a conversation offline regarding this issue due to GDPR reasons. She did however inform Members that the Council had done their duty in terms of engagement and working with a partnership of other organisations.

(k) Car Parking Charges in the Car Parks in the Forest

Councillor S Jones advised her question was to the Environmental and Technical Services Portfolio Holder and stated that a number of residents had asked why this Council was introducing car park charging in the forest car parks after possibly being misled by the opposition parties. Therefore, could the Portfolio Holder please confirm that this was not the decision of this Council and to clarify whether it was in the authority of this Council to enforce.

Councillor N Avey advised that he had received information that some Members or their representatives have alleged, on the doorstep campaign, that this Council were responsible for that particular issue. He confirmed that it was nothing to do with this

Council and was solely a matter driven by the Corporation of London and this Council did not have any responsibility for car parks in the Forest.

(l) Landmark Building Cladding

Councillor D Wixley advised that his question was to the Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder and referred to the question he asked regarding the Landmark Building in the Broadway, Debden and stated that he asked in the Council had incurred any cost for the replacement of the cladding. It was not explicit in the minutes of the last meeting as to whether or not this was the case, it looked as if Higgins bore the costs but for the avoidance of any doubt could he confirm if the Council did or did not incur any costs.

Councillor A Patel confirmed that the costs relating to the removal and replacement of the cladding on the Landmark Building were borne entirely by Higgins Homes.

(m) Epping Forest Youth Council

Councillor D Sunger stated that the £3,000 awarded by Cabinet to the Epping Forest Youth Council for their mental health project and asked the Housing and Communities Portfolio Holder if she would join him in thanking and congratulating the Epping Forest Youth Council for their MiLife C19 mental health project especially in these difficult times reaching out and supporting young people with their emotional and mental health.

Councillor H Whitbread thanked Councillor Sunger for his question and for highlighting the work of the Youth Council. She advised that she was an alumnus of the Youth Council and was proud of the work they were doing especially around mental health in young people during the pandemic, identifying the key issues and recognising the needs of young people locally.

(n) Road Charges

Councillor L Burrows advised his question was to the Leader of the Council and asked him to confirm that there was never any vote for road charges by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) and that EFDC does not have any authority to implement charges. Could he also confirm that the Liberal Democrats at Essex County Council did put forward an amendment to the budget calling for tax rises and road charges in hot spots across Essex including Epping Forest.

Councillor C Whitbread confirmed that EFDC had never voted on road charges. At the Full Council debate the amendments were discussed and a vote was never taken on road charges. He also confirmed that the Liberal Democrats at Essex County Council had brought forward an amendment for a council tax increase for local people which was proposed to go towards the cost for road charges across hot spots in Essex to bring in Clean Air Zones.

### 83. MOTIONS

The Chairman reported that there were no motions to be considered at the meeting.

### 84. QUALIS QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT - Q1 2020/21

**Mover: Councillor A Patel, Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder**

The Chairman advised that this report had been to Cabinet and the Select Panels and suggested that Members go straight to questions. Were Members in agreement or would they like the Portfolio Holder to present the report to Council.

Councillor S Heap asked how many positions in the Qualis Group benefit from a bonus scheme and what was the expected total of the bonus scheme this year.

Councillor A Patel advised that he was not in a position to answer this question and would find out the information and come back to Councillor Heap outside of the meeting.

Councillor Heap stated that positions had been advertised with a bonus scheme related therefore, what was that bonus scheme which should have been known by the Portfolio Holder before the question was asked.

Councillor Patel reiterated that he did not have that information to hand and would have to report back to Councillor Heap at a later date.

Councillor S Murray stated that his question related to two sections of the report, page 102, section 10. Operational Performance, Qualis Management and page 103, section 12. Key Actions for completion in the next quarter, both of which refer to housing maintenance especially page 103 where it had referenced, Complete fine tuning of Housing Maintenance SLA and final confirmation of operational and financial KPIs. He stated that as Housing Management was a key frontline service, had any thought been given as to how members, going forward on those issues, would be able to exercise any scrutiny. The reason behind the question was that he regarded the housing repair service to the Councils tenants as a frontline service and although Qualis were now delivering this service for the Council it still must be scrutinised. Therefore, what level of member input will there be in the Service Level Agreement and scrutiny going forward.

Councillor A Patel stated that he believed Councillor Murray had already asked that question at a different meeting and therefore just to clarify as was stated at that meeting that he was happy for a report to come forward to the relevant Select Committee and to discuss the achievements of the maintenance team in relation to their KPIs. I suggest this report should go to a later scrutiny meeting on the year anniversary of when the service was transferred to Qualis.

Councillor C C Pond referred to page 87, 3.7. Roundhills and Pyrles Lane Delivery Plans to Board and advised that he spoke to someone who claimed that they had heard a conversation regarding the Pyrles Lane site which implied that the scheme would be delivered at a much greater intensity than the consented scheme which Area Plans Sub-Committee South gave permission for a few years ago. Therefore, would the Portfolio Holder like to deny that.

Councillor A Patel advised that in terms of the actual details of this scheme at present there was no scheme. A business case would have to be made to Cabinet for a transfer of the land and therefore I am unable to comment of what may come about.

Councillor D Wixley referred to the last point Councillor Pond had just raised it had been recorded in a previous agenda, I don't recall exactly when, but what Councillor Pond had been told was accurate. This question has cropped up before and there was considerably more units than what was given permission for a few years ago at an Area Plans South Sub-Committee. That planning permission has now exceeded the three year period.

Councillor A Patel reiterated that until a business case was made there were no details for him to be in a position to answer that question. When it gets to that stage, he advised that members would be able to comment on the proposals from Qualis.

Report as first moved: **ADOPTED**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Members agreed that as this report had been to Cabinet and Scrutiny that the Portfolio Holder did not have to present the report again and that it should now go straight to questions; and
- (2) That the Qualis Quarterly Monitoring Report – Q1 2020/2021 be agreed.

**85. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22**

**Mover: Councillor S Kane, Customer & Corporate Services Portfolio Holder**

Councillor S Kane submitted a report regarding the Calendar of Council meetings for 2021/22.

Councillor C Whitbread requested that the Full Council meeting normally held towards the end of April be moved backwards as he felt that this was too near to the elections.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the alteration of the Full Council Meeting on the 28 April 2022, the draft Calendar of Council meetings for 2021/22 as attached be adopted.

**86. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Council received a written report from Councillor M Sartin, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which detailed the meeting held on 15 April 2021 which was for noting.

Councillor Sartin made reference to paragraph 1 of the report and the four Youth Councillors, Aliza Zarras from West Hatch, Martin Prinsloo from Davenant Foundation, Natalie Moffat from Roding Valley and Sonny Bazzoni from Epping St John's who gave a presentation at that meeting. She advised that each new cohort of Youth Councillors that were elected by their fellow pupils have never failed to impress us with their abilities and it was the same again this year. The four members representing the Youth Council on the 15 April definitely stepped up to the mark and they gave an excellent presentation on the work that they had undertaken under the difficult circumstances that had challenged them this year. All of their meetings have been held on Zoom and they have not had much opportunity to meet face to face with each other and we certainly look forward to hearing what they have been working on later this year.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report for the meeting held on 15 April 2021 be noted.

**87. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS & EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- a) There were no updates from council representatives on any other business of joint arrangements and external organisations; and
- b) There were no requests made for written reports by representatives on joint arrangements and external organisations for the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN**